

exercises and other simple therapeutic measures. The instructions are printed, with diagrams, on a series of cards. These are explained to the patient by the doctor.

By following this method, the patient may prevent a condition from becoming chronic, and at the same time he will realise that his own efforts are most important if he is to gain the maximal recovery.

This should be read by all interested in the after-care of injury and the treatment of chronic conditions, . . . and this means all general practitioners and most consultants. This book is a stimulating and valuable contribution to a very difficult problem.

R. I. W.

**TECHNIQUES IN TROPICAL PATHOLOGY.** By B. G. Macgrath, W. E. Kershaw, and D. Dagnall. (Pp. xi + 164; illustrated. 25s.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd, 1961.

THIS book, according to the authors, "is intended for the medical practitioner and laboratory technician working in small laboratories in the tropics. It contains details of some of the simpler procedures which should be useful in the diagnosis of human diseases peculiar to hot climates."

The text of the book has been commendably compressed into 164 pages, including appendix and index. The technical methods are clearly described and the illustrations are excellent. The sections on parasitology, helminthology, and microscopy of exudates are beyond praise. The authors, however, have not confined themselves to the laboratory diagnosis of diseases peculiar to the tropics. They have ranged over the whole of laboratory medicine. If the book is intended as a guide, its success to a great measure depends on the selection of the methods it recommends, for there is no room to include alternates.

It is in the field of general clinical pathology where, I think, there is room for criticism of the choice of recommended techniques. Some of the methods described are not the most satisfactory for the purpose.

In a small laboratory there would be considerable advantage in using tablet reagents rather than solutions for urine testing. These can be more readily stored, do not deteriorate as quickly as solutions and are simple and accurate in use.

In the bacteriology section, the use of dark ground examination of a centrifuged deposit of citrated blood is recommended for the diagnosis of leptospirosis. This is a highly unsatisfactory method. The only useful method of diagnosis of leptospira are by isolation of the organism or by the leptospiral agglutination test. The use of the adhesion test as a serological diagnostic procedure is historical rather than practical.

In the section on haematology the use of "Sequestrene" as a routine anticoagulant for blood samples is not mentioned and the Wintrobe method for sedimentation rates is recommended, although most laboratories nowadays have reverted to the use of the Westgren method.

In the section of the book which deals with blood grouping, only ABO blood groups are mentioned. If this section is intended to assist in the problem of blood transfusion practice the omission of any reference to the Rhesus factor or to the less common blood group antigens is a serious omission.

Despite these criticisms, which I am sure will be corrected in future editions, this book will prove useful to doctors with limited laboratory experience working in small laboratories in the tropics.

M. G. N.

**A PHYSICIAN'S INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRONICS.** By A. C. Morris, jun. (Pp. 50. 15s.) London: Pergamon Press, 1961.

ELECTRONIC engineers use a language and script of their own. This book provides a basis for their translation. In a very small compass it provides sufficient information for a non-expert to understand something of a circuit diagram. Part of the book consists of instructions for the building and operation of a circuit which illustrates the basic functions of many electronic components. It should prove a useful, cheap reference manual for the non-expert who uses electronic apparatus.

G. M. B.